

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is a response to applicant's amendment filed on 03/04/2008. In virtue of this amendment, claims 16-43 are withdrawn; thus, claims 1-15 are currently in the instant application.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

1. Examiner contacted applicant's representative, Mark J. Patterson (Reg. No. 30,412) on June 2, 2008 for discussing about cancelling the non-elected claims 16-43 in order to place application in allowance condition. Applicant's representative agreed to authorize examiner to cancel claims 16-43 in Examiner's amendment.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark J. Patterson (Reg. No. 30,412) on June 2, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 16-43 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-15 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

An electronic dimming ballast comprising a dimming control circuit comprising a controller circuit, a dimming control signal input that receives a dimming control signal representative of the desired lamp dimming level, a lamp dimming level feedback signal input that receives a lamp dimming level feedback signal representative of an existing lamp dimming level, and an inverter control signal output that outputs an inverter control signal having a pulse width and frequency that causes the inverter circuit to supply the lamp with sufficient current to cause the lamp to have a desired lamp dimming level; the controller circuit comprising lamp dimming level control software functional to cause the dimming control circuit to incrementally modulate the pulse width and frequency of the inverter control signal based on the dimming control signal and the lamp dimming level feedback signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as in claim 1.

Claims 2-15 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DIEU HIEN T. DUONG whose telephone number is

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(571)272-8980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, from 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas W. Owens can be reached on 571-272-1662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Trinh Vo Dinh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2821